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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,306	10/16/2001	Shinichi Yada	110870	4668
25944	7590	02/26/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			WOO, ISAAC M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	4

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,306

Applicant(s)

YADA, SHINICHI

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,207).

With respect claims 1, Lin discloses, storing means connected to a network for storing electronic information, see (122, RAM, 123, ROM, fig. 12, col. 8, lines 21-33, col. 4, lines 17-64, procedure 100, fig. 1, col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, input text from a network); feature extracting means for extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, see (col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, col. 8, lines 41-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11); the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from a client (by a user), see (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37); and deleting, means for deleting from the storing means via the network the electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means, see (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 18-23,

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col. 7, lines 27-37). Lin discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from a client (by a user), see (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37). Lin does not explicitly disclose deciding whether the electronic is to be deleted. However, Lin discloses stored in the Chinese phrase data area D100, will be checked to delete the conjunctions which can not be considered as key phrases, see (col. 6, lines 18-23). This teaches the stored data is checked to be deleted, which means the system decides the stored data to be deleted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include deciding whether the electronic is to be deleted in the system of Lin to provide decision of data deletion. Deletion of unnecessary data or information provides saving storage space in the computer system. Thus decision of data deletion helps find unnecessary data or information to be deleted.

With respect to claims 4 and 14, Lin discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising a character string instructed by the client, see (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37).

With respect to claims 5 and 15, Lin discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising an image instructed by the client, see (col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37).

With respect to claims 6 and 16, Lin discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided by obtaining a feature comprising an image instructed by the client based on image features having a similar image of the image, see (col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37, col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, col. 8, lines 41-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11).

With respect to claims 7 and 17, Lin discloses, other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also decided as a deletion object together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature, see (100, fig. 1, col. 4, lines 17-64, col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, col. 8, lines 41-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11).

With respect to claims 25, Lin discloses, deletion timing of the electronic information stored in the temporary storage server is instructed by the terminal equipment, see (col. 4, lines 17-64, col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18).

With respect to claims 26, Lin discloses, transfer of electronic information stored in the temporary storage server to the terminal equipment is instructed by the terminal equipment, see (col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, col. 8, lines 41-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11).

3. Claims 8-9 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,207) in view of Fitzgerald (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,533).

With respect to claims 8-9 and 18-19, Fitzgerald discloses, deleting means for deleting the electronic information stored in the temporarily storing means, information sent via network, see (col. 2, lines 53-67 to col. 3, lines 1-18, col. 8, lines 41-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11). Lin does not explicitly disclose temporarily storing means for temporarily storing electronic information at a predetermined timing. However, Fitzgerald discloses "copy of the report will be placed in Temporary Report Storage 445 residing in the Data Storage Device 440, where it remains for a pre-determined period of time", see (col. 8, lines 14-37) and "the CPU 530 will access the Data Storage Device 540 at a pre-determined time each day to retrieve the records", see (col. 8, lines 52-65). This teaches that the data is stored in pre-determined time, which also means that the temporary storing a data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include temporarily storing means for temporarily storing electronic information at a predetermined timing in the system of Lin to provide storing data in temporary storage. Because computer memory and buffer are temporary data storages that provide saving a storage space in the computer system.

With respect to claim 20, Lin discloses, temporarily stored electronic information is deleted based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information, see (col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37).

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With respect to claim 21, Lin discloses, temporarily stored electronic information is transferred based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information, see (col. 6, lines 18-23, col. 7, lines 27-37).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sasaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,834) discloses the system for client-server type network having at least two clients that execute the same kind of operation. The server and the clients are improved in order to realize addition or reduction in the number of clients, and extracting information by client. This can be also used as 103 reference.


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
February 11, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER